

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 11, 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Maeda. Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the limitations of claim 2, and claim 2 has been canceled. Thus, claim 1 now recites “an aromatic amine compound having a benzoxazole structure.” Maeda fails to disclose or suggest the same. Thus, claim 1, and claims 3-5, 8, 11, 13 and 15 which depend from claim 1, are not anticipated by Maeda. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Maeda in view of Karkozov. Claims 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14 and 16 have been canceled. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

In addition, claim 1 as amended, and claims 3-5, 8, 11, 13 and 15 which depend from claim 1, are not obvious over Maeda in view of Karkozov. Claim 1 as amended recites a curable composition that, at ambient temperature, comprises a solid dispersoid including a benzoxazole amine compound dispersed in a liquid continuous phase comprising a compound with two or more epoxy groups. In other words, because the solid dispersoid comprises specific amine compound that is incompatible with the continuous phase comprising the epoxy compound, the resulting mixture is a one-component curable composition that exhibits excellent stability and easy use (Specification, page 4, lines 5-9). Further, because the amine compound is dispersed as a dispersoid in the claimed invention, the amine compound and the epoxy compound come into contact gently during the curing process, the resulting cured product exhibiting excellent uniformity (Spec. pg. 4, lines 20-26).

A person of ordinary skill in the art would not have found it obvious to combine Maeda and Karkozov in the manner suggested by the Examiner because the modification to Maeda's invention suggested by the Examiner would render Maeda's invention unsatisfactory for its intended purpose (MPEP 2143.01(V)). Maeda discloses a curable composition comprising a polyisocyanate

compound, a urethane prepolymer and a surface-coated amine compound that is "heat-cured under a low temperature condition (e.g. 60° to 100°C × 10 min.)" (Maeda, column 1, lines 53-54).

Achieving both low-temperature curability and sufficient storage stability is a key concept to Maeda's invention (Maeda, column 1, lines 24-29). Maeda's surface-coated amine compound has its melting points around the curing temperature (usually 60° to 100°C) of Maeda's composition, and it comes into contact with other active ingredients by melting through the fine-particle coating when the mixture is heated to the curing temperature. Thus, to maintain low-temperature curability, the melting point temperature is important.

The Examiner alleges that it would have been obvious to modify Maeda by substituting Maeda's amine compounds, which reacts by melting at the curing temperature, with Karkozov's 5-amino-2-(n-amino phenyl)-benzoxazole (APBO) that is introduced to Karkozov's epoxide resin at 140°C in an amount of 10-30 weight% as a hardener. However, Karkozov's APBO has a melting point in the range of 228-232°C (Karkozov, English translation, page 3, line 14). In other words, if APBO were coated with fine-particles and mixed into Maeda's composition as suggested by the Examiner, Maeda's composition would not cure at Maeda's curing temperature of 60° to 100°C. Thus, using Karkozov's APBO in Maeda's composition would render Maeda's invention unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. Thus, Maeda teaches against the substitution proposed by the Examiner, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Further, Maeda and Karkozov concern two completely different types of curable compositions. Given the low likelihood of success for obtaining any desirable curable composition by mixing the two, it would not have been obvious to combine these two references. The main active ingredients of Maeda's curing composition are a polyisocyanate compound, urethane prepolymers, and a fine-particle coated amine compound. An epoxy resin can optionally be mixed into the composition to induce a three dimensionalization action in the cured product. However, Maeda does not disclose or suggest simply reacting the amine compound with a compound having

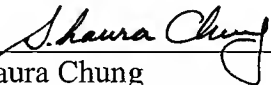
the epoxy group without reacting it with the polyisocyanate compound and urethane prepolymer. Karkozov, on the other than, discloses mixing APBO simply as a hardener in an amount of 10-30 weight % to an epoxide resin to obtain a pot mixture that will cure into a heat resistant final product. In other words, the cured products obtained in Maeda and Karkozov are two completely different substances in their chemical compositions and in their curing processes, in particular, their curing temperatures.

The combination of Maeda and Karkozov, if the two were combinable at all, would have been a composition in which Maeda's composition, including its polyisocyanate, urethane prepolymers, and fine particle coated amine, is mixed with 10-30 weight % of surface-coated Karkozov's APBO as a hardener at a mixing temperature of 140°C as taught by Karkozov. Given that Maeda's composition cures at 60-100°C, it is not clear whether APBO can be so mixed into Maeda's composition. In fact, it is uncertain whether the resulting mixture would be any useful curable composition. Thus, given the low likelihood of success, it would not have been obvious to combine Maeda's invention with Karkozov's invention, and this provides an additional reason for withdrawing this obviousness rejection.

In the event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief (such as payment of a fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p)) is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petition and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing **Docket No. 358362011200**.

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